

N^o. LVII.—N^o. 18,511.

MADE MAD BY IDLENESS.

SEVEN CONVICTS AT CROW HILL DECLARED INSANE.

TWO MORE CASES TO BE DECIDED UPON—THE EFFECT OF THE ABOLITION OF CONTRACT CONVICT LABOR.

As a result of the closer confinement and the idleness which have been necessary with the convicts in the Kings County Penitentiary because of the law against contract convict labor, seven convicts have been officially declared insane, and two more are said to be mentally unbalanced. The seven follow:

CARROLL, James, Westchester County, assault.
CLARK, Patrick, Brooklyn, one year for robbery.
EAST, John W., United States prisoner from Virginia, three years.
HALL, United States prisoner from Florida, three years for robbing a postoffice.
LACROIX, George, Brooklyn, one year and \$500 fine for manslaughter.
TAYLOR, Harry, Brooklyn, ninety days for vagrancy.
ZELUF, Henry, Staten Island.

All of these prisoners have been declared insane by Dr. W. H. Bates and Dr. J. J. O'Connell, the commission appointed by the County Court to examine into the sanity of prisoners. Two more convicts, it is said, will be declared insane within a few days.

The five Federal, State and county prisoners whose names are given above will be sent today to the State Asylum for insane convicts at Matteawan. The authorities in Washington have been informed of the condition of the Federal prisoners, and an order for their removal is expected daily.

The prison law which went into effect on January 1 last abolished the system by which the labor of prisoners was let out by contract. Under the system the Kings County Penitentiary was self-supporting and the prisoners received regular daily employment. Their days being wholly occupied with working, eating and sleeping, their minds and bodies were kept in a fairly wholesome condition. Since the introduction of the new law there has been a great change for the worse. The Tribune has from time to time told of the efforts of the Brooklyn Commissioners of Charities and Corrections to provide employment for their charges in the Crow Hill institution. They were urged to this not only by their fears that enforced idleness in stone cells would shatter the mental and physical health of the prisoners, but by the pitiful pleading of the prisoners themselves, who begged that they might have some sort of employment to aid them in hastening the passage of the at best slow hours.

Many obstacles have prevented the introduction of a penitentiary school, and at the best Warden Hayes has succeeded in keeping only an average of three hundred a day, out of the seven hundred inmates, at anything worthy of the name of employment. The rest of the prisoners have had trotting and arm-swinging exercises, which last for an hour or so each day, and, to a certain extent, supply the need of the human body for exercise. But the remaining hours of the twenty-four are passed in the cells.

It is the usual thing for a small percentage of prisoners to lose their minds, even under a system of daily labor, but two of the Charities Commissioners yesterday declared to a Tribune reporter that this record of nine within a few months is unprecedented, and could be accounted for only by the fact of the greater confinement and their inability to develop by wholesome work an appetite for the prison fare and the kind of weariness that brings nature's restorer, sleep.

MANY MORE CASES EXPECTED.

It is feared that this is only the beginning of something worse. Many other prisoners than those that have passed the limit of sanity begin to have the dulness of eye and the inability to eat or sleep that portends mental dissolution.

Many of the details of the conduct and mental varieties of the insane prisoners are too horrible and repulsive to print. The strangest case is that of Loomis, who is altogether a strange sort of individual. Loomis is about twenty-five years old, and will be remembered as the man who was arrested by the police something more than a year ago while walking along the street with a bag filled with burglars' tools. It was finally proved that he was a manufacturer of crack-smoke's outfits, and he was sent up for a year and ordered to pay a fine of \$500. This fine he is now working up.

He was a man of great ingenuity, as was shown by the clever manner in which he opened the safe in the District-Attorney's office, and his operations were the result of keen brain as well as deft fingers is shown by a remark he made while in prison to Commissioner John H. Burtis. Mr. Burtis expressed surprise at his ability in opening safes, when Loomis said dryly:

"Any safe that was ever put together can be taken apart."

And now Loomis has an idea that he is sitting in the electric chair, and that the deadly current is about to be turned on. Every time he sees Commissioner Burtis he pleads with him for a reprieve of six days.

"All you've got to do is to turn on the current," he said the other day. "But I will be ready in six days. Can't you give me six days?" "No, give you thirty," replied the Commissioner to humor him.

"No, six days are all I want. I know I am a bad and bloody fellow, and I want to write my history. I can do that in six days, and then I am ready for the current. I visit him occasionally, but this does not help him. He looks wild-eyed and does not eat."

Taylor attempted to take his life a week ago by breaking a bottle of cyanide over his head and throat, and saving his throat by breaking a bottle of cyanide over his head and throat. He talks at random and refuses to eat.

Clark cannot sleep because he thinks everybody is trying to get into his cell to kill him. Zeluf has a queer hallucination. He thinks that all the other prisoners of his wing of the building have fastened looking-glasses in their cells so that the light is reflected on him. This focusing of many streams of light on him he believes is burning him up, and his poor fevered body and brain will not rest or lose consciousness night or day.

Commissioner Burtis yesterday declined to talk with a reporter. He did say this, however: "The same condition exists in the other prisons of the State as here. I think Sing Sing will be a lunatic asylum within a few months."

INTERPRETING THE NEW LAW.
The Anti-Convict Labor law provides that "The State, or the political divisions thereof, shall not be a manufacturer in the State and must buy goods from institutions whenever it is certified by the proper officers of the State or its political divisions that such goods are being manufactured. About fifty men have been engaged in the shops manufacturing goods that will be used in the city departments. The Charities Commissioners recently sent a communication to the heads of city departments setting forth the various goods the prison was prepared to supply."

The only order that was received was a small one from the Police Department. Corporation Counsel Burr of Brooklyn was at first of the opinion that the departments did not have to use the goods of the Charities Department unless it could supply at once all of a given article that was required. But it is now understood that Mr. Burr no longer holds this to be the law in the State. It was the belief before the point was raised that the cities would be the largest buyers of prison goods.

FOUND HIS MASTER'S BODY.

REMARKABLE DEVOTION OF A DOG WHO TRACED HIS DEAD OWNER TO A MORGUE.

One of the most pathetic features of the accidental killing of Pasquale Siciliano, an Italian tailor, at Linwood-st. and Atlantic-ave., Brooklyn, on Monday night by a Rockaway Beach train on the Long Island Railroad was the devotion of a big white bulldog with one brindle eye, evidently belonging to Siciliano, and which, judging from a number of fresh cuts on his body, was hit by the locomotive and killed his master. Probably master and dog were trying to get across the track at the same time.

Siciliano's body was taken to Delinger's undertaking rooms, in Van Sticken-ave., a mile away. It was some time after the body was placed in the morgue that the undertaker and the policeman who took the body there noticed the building holding along the street, and the dog, who had been lying down, suddenly sprang up and sniffed, and then resumed his walk toward the morgue. As he neared it he quickened his gait, and seemed to lose some of his stiffness. Stopping in front of the door of the morgue, he whined piteously, and Louis Bader, the manager, came to the door and tried to scare him off. He did not go, but rather forced his way closer to the door.

"I present the dog must belong to the dead man," said Bader to one of the policemen. He opened the door a few inches, and the dog bolted through it in an instant, and then scrambled up three or four steps to a door leading to the morgue-room. Here he began whining again. The door was opened, and the big brute, with a bound, sprang for the leech and howled loudly. Then he became suddenly savage, and would allow no one to go near the leech. His hair bristled on the back of the dog's neck, his body became rigid, and the blood ran all the more freely from his cuts.

He was finally forced away from the leech and on to the sidewalk. He walked around to the back of the morgue, in Liberty-ave., and sniffed all night long, and remained all night long. The policeman who had witnessed all this became much interested, and tried various devices to coax him away, but they did not succeed.

The dog finally set up such a hideous howling that Mr. Bader was compelled to call the neighbors to the police. A number of them came, and after a struggle carried the dog off to the station where the dog was kept. The dog was then taken to the morgue, and the body was placed in the morgue. The dog was then taken to the morgue, and the body was placed in the morgue.

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MUST ACT OR GO TO JAIL.

AN ORDER SIGNED DIRECTING THE COMMITMENT OF THE LONG ISLAND CITY POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

The Police Commissioners of Long Island City have put themselves into serious trouble. Yesterday Justice Cullen, of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, signed an order committing them to the jail in Long Island City.

Some time ago the Appellate Division granted an order directing John T. Grady, William Fitzgibbons and John Lawlor, as Police Commissioners, to reinstate Owen J. Kavanagh as a member of the police force. Kavanagh demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Court that he had been removed illegally. The Commissioners did not reinstate him, and a motion was made to punish them for contempt.

This was granted by the Appellate Division just before the Court adjourned, a few weeks ago, notwithstanding the claim of the respondents that no contempt was intended, that they had appealed to the Court of Appeals from the order directing the reinstatement of Kavanagh, and that the Appellate Court had no right to issue a mandamus, which should issue from the Special Term.

The Appellate Court provided in the order of punishment for contempt that the Commissioners should be fined \$10 and that they should stand committed to the County Jail of Queens County until they complied with the order of the Court directing them to reinstate Kavanagh. Even after that the Commissioners did not put Kavanagh back as a member of the force, so his counsel went to Justice Cullen and asked for the commitment under the order.

His request was granted, and the order directing the imprisonment of the Commissioners has been placed in the hands of the Sheriff of Queens County for immediate execution.

A PRISONER WITH THE GOUT.
THE DISCOVERY CAUSES MUCH COMMENT IN BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

There was some commotion about Bellevue Hospital last evening, when it became known that a man named Rose had been found in a workhouse prisoner who had been doing work about the hospital for some time. Rose is a Jew, and he became a prisoner who lived at No. 52 Lewis-st. Three doctors looked at the woman without being able to determine what ailed her feet. Finally Dr. Pascal announced that the woman's trouble was gout.

Nobody could understand why a female prisoner should have gout, but she said she had it have it put her in the trouble came from the extra fine meals given to prisoners.

HE KNEW HOW TO SHOOT.
A BRAVE BOY PREVENTS A TRAMP FROM ROBBERING HIS FATHER'S STORE.

Paterson, July 20 (Special).—While Frank, the thirteen-year-old son of John Laughlin, proprietor of the Olympic Park Hotel, at Lake View, was in the back yard last night, a sly-looking man entered and made a rapid move for the bar, where the cash register rested. Laughlin had left the boy in charge of the place only because of a peremptory summons, which called him to this city, and before leaving had told him that there was considerable money in the register, and that if any suspicious strangers came in to take no chances. Frank remembered these instructions, and as soon as he saw the man rush toward the cash register he picked up a revolver from a drawer in the back bar, and fired a shot which quickly pulled up a heavy wooden chair with which to protect himself. He had no sooner done so than a bullet that the lad had meant for his head imbedded itself in the bottom of the chair. The fellow waited no longer, but ran from the place, carrying his wound. Laughlin returned about an hour later to find his boy keeping guard over the place with the revolver.

"What do you mean?" was the young man's greeting. "It came off," was the young man's answer. "What do you mean?" was the young man's greeting. "It came off," was the young man's answer.

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DROVE HIMSELF TO JAIL.

CONTEMPT CAUSED BY A BLUE-COAT.

POLICEMAN ALLEN, DRUNK AND UGLY, CREATED A SCENE IN THE DRYGOODS DISTRICT—LOCKED UP BY HIS CAPTAIN AND SUSPENDED.

A drunken policeman on a rampage is a rare sight in this city, but such a spectacle created much excitement at Church and Chambers sts. yesterday afternoon, and caused a large crowd of men in the drygoods district to rather and see the policeman drive himself to jail. He accomplished that feat after threatening to shoot some citizens, causing much consternation in the crowd. He is James S. Allen, a young policeman who has had considerable trouble to retain his place, and he probably will not be a policeman much longer, as he was locked up and suspended last evening, and he will face a charge in a police court this morning.

Policeman Allen is attached to the police station in Leonard-st., where he is now a prisoner. At 4 p. m. yesterday he attracted attention to himself at Chambers and Church sts., where he was on post in full uniform, by making frantic and vain attempts to light a cigarette. It is against the rules of the Department for a patrolman to smoke on post, and the men in the dry-goods district who saw Allen struggling with matches and the cigarette knew at once that he was drunk. His appearance caused only amusement at first, but many men stopped to watch him. He swore at everybody in sight, and told the spectators to chase themselves away, but the crowd only increased in size.

Perhaps with a view of making a diversion, Allen made his way to a truck that was standing in front of No. 106 Chambers-st. William Collmann, driver for O'Neill & Smith, of No. 90 Chambers-st., was sitting on the truck. The drunken policeman climbed up beside the driver, grabbed hold of his throat and threw him off the seat without the least provocation. Then, after nearly falling off the driver's seat, pick up the reins and start the horse's head, thinking it was unsafe to have a drunken man in the back in alarm when Allen made a motion to draw his revolver and declared with a volley of oaths that he would shoot if they didn't "let go dem hosses." He was then allowed to drive to a police station, followed by about a thousand men and boys.

Captain Cross was looking out of the window of the station when the policeman drove up, and he was amazed by the size of the hooting crowd that followed after. The first thing Allen tried to do when he got off the truck was to assault to do when he got off the truck was to assault to do when he got off the truck was to assault.

Allen was then taken to a police court this morning, and probably will be fined for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. He was formerly a member of the police force, but it is said, was discharged for drunkenness. He was arrested for making a scene in the drygoods district, and was taken to a police station, followed by about a thousand men and boys.

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THE CURRENCY MESSAGE.

REPUBLICAN LEADERS IN THE HOUSE THINK IT WILL BE SENT IN TO-DAY.

Washington, July 20 (Special).—It was the general expectation of the Republican leaders in the House of Representatives this afternoon that President McKinley would send in a special message to-morrow recommending legislation authorizing the appointment of a Currency Commission, and defining its duties and functions, although it could not be ascertained that definite assurances to that effect had been received. Whether the message, if one shall be sent, will be accompanied by the draft of a bill of course nobody was prepared to say. It was reported, however, that the Secretary of the Treasury had recently conversed in an informal way with several financiers of National reputation on the subject, and the impression was consequently strong that he was ready to submit at least the outlines of the proposed legislation.

It is regarded as altogether probable that if the House of Representatives shall receive a message on the subject to-morrow, whether accompanied by the draft of a bill or not, it will be promptly considered and disposed of before the end of this session.

WILL ENGLAND PARTICIPATE?

GROWING PROBABILITY THAT SHE WILL SEND A DELEGATE TO A SILVER CONFERENCE.

London, July 20.—The negotiations between the American Bimetallic Commission and the representatives of France and Great Britain have now reached the stage which renders it extremely probable that Great Britain will agree to participate in a conference to be held in Washington next fall.

BUILDING UP THE FRENCH NAVY.

A CREDIT OF 7,000,000 FRANCES VOTED BY BOTH CHAMBERS.

Paris, July 20.—The Chamber of Deputies today, by a vote of 518 against 18, without debate and after the Government had declared it a matter of urgency, adopted the recommendation of the Budget Committee granting a credit of 7,000,000 francs, to be included in the accounts of the current year, for commencing new warships, expediting the reconstruction of the navy, and establishing a naval base at Bizerta, a fortified seaport of Tunis, and the most northern town of Africa.

The Senate unanimously adopted the naval credit of 7,000,000 francs.

AN ARMISTICE IN URUGUAY.

HOSTILITIES BETWEEN INSURGENTS AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS SUSPENDED FOR TWENTY-TWO DAYS.

London, July 20.—A dispatch from Montevideo says that a twenty-two days' armistice between the insurgents and the Government troops has been signed pending negotiations for a compromise. A proposal has been made to nominate Señor Ramirez as a candidate for the Presidency.

FRAM TO EXPLORE GREENLAND'S COAST.

CAPTAIN EVERDRUP WILL COMMAND HER—DR. NANSEN TO JOIN A PARTY OF GEOLOGISTS.

Berlin, July 20.—The "Lokal-Anzeiger" says that the Fram, the vessel on which Dr. Nansen's last polar expedition was made, will next year explore the western coast of Greenland. The Fram will be under the command of Captain Everdrup, who sailed with Dr. Nansen as navigator.

Dr. Nansen, the "Lokal-Anzeiger" announces, will shortly make a tour of research with a party of English and American geologists.

CHINA WAKING UP.

HER ARMY TO BE REORGANIZED AND A NEW FLEET TO BE CONSTRUCTED.

London, July 21.—"The Daily Mail" Berlin correspondent says that China is about to reorganize her army on the lines of the German military, and that orders for rifles have been placed in Germany. A new Chinese fleet is to be constructed, one-half of the contracts for the new vessels going to England and the other half to Germany. The armistice will supply the guns for the new fleet.

TO MAKE A MODEL FARM FOR CHINA.

A CORNELIAN MAN GETS AN INVITATION FROM LI HUNG CHANG.

Poughkeeps, N. Y., July 20.—George A. Brill, of Poughkeeps, Dutchess County, who was graduated from Cornell University in 1888, recently received a message from Li Hung Chang offering him a liberal sum to organize and manage a model farm in China under the Government. He was born and reared in the country and is of the best agriculturalists in the State. He will accept the offer, and will soon start for China to enter on his duties.

TWO INJURED BY A RUNAWAY HORSE.

A WOMAN CYCLIST KNOCKED DOWN AND A FIREMAN SPUN AROUND LIKE A TOP.

A horse owned by Herman Maider, of the Knickerbocker Stables at First-st. and Second-ave., and driven by John Hand, a vendor, ran away in upper Third-ave. at noon yesterday, and in the course of its mad flight dashed for nearly two blocks on the sidewalk, knocking down a woman and hurrying a fireman against the wall of a house. The woman was Miss Emma Mullen, of No. 108 West Forty-seventh-st. She was badly bruised by the fall and was kicked in the back by the horse. She refused to go to a hospital, and was taken to her home after being attended by an ambulance surgeon. The fireman, whose name could not be learned, was severely bruised about the legs and body. He was taken away by a friend.

While standing untied in front of No. 239 Thirtieth-st., which